

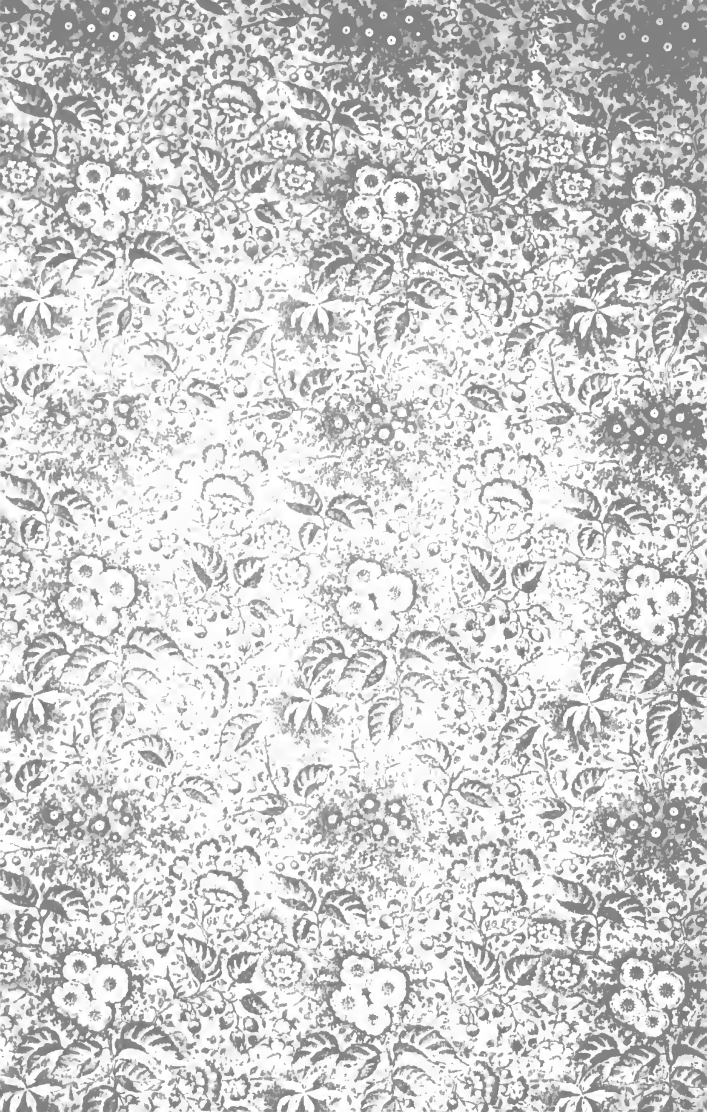
NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 08237593 6

In Memoriam

WILLIAM HYDE.



Hyde

(Hyde)
AN

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2008 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation





BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH
DIE IN THE LORD.

A MEMORIAL SERMON.

PREACHED AT

WARE. MASS.. JULY 15. 1888.

BY

REV. A. E. P. PERKINS, D. D.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 179552
1907

SERMON.

REV. XIV: 13.

AND I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING UNTO ME, WRITE, BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD FROM HENCEFORTH; YEA, SAITH THE SPIRIT, THAT THEY MAY REST FROM THEIR LABORS: AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM.

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD.

Is death then a blessing? But surely life is a blessing. It is so represented upon the highest authority. "Length of days" is one of the rewards offered by Wisdom to induce men to accept her guidance. "With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation" is the climax of the blessings bestowed upon him "who dwells in the secret place of the Most High."

It would be vain to attempt to make men, in the vigor of their powers, believe that it was not a good thing to live. To feel the bounding pulse of perfect health, to have the powers of body and mind in harmonious exercise, to be in possession of the means of a rational gratification of the senses, of the tastes and the affections, with hope and faith buoyant and strong, giving the soul a clear outlook to the life beyond, all this is a joy and a blessing not to be overclouded by the pessimistic doubt, whether life is worth living.

And yet great as is the blessing of life, there may come the time to one when death is a greater.

It is not alone, here and there one in exceptional circumstances that is able to say, "to me to live is Christ, but to die is gain."

This is the privilege of every one who is in Christ. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. But however great their blessedness, of which we can have no adequate nor even any very definite idea, we are not encouraged to dwell upon this, but our thoughts are turned off from that to a consideration of their works which "do follow them."

Though they are enjoying the reward of these, the works in their fruits remain behind and follow them.

This is true in respect,

I. To their example. When we speak of the influence of example, we usually have in mind the influence exerted by the personal presence of those with whom we associate from day to day. That influence is great in the case of those whom we have learned to respect and love.

The power in this respect of the parent over the child is too great to be estimated. Like in kind, though less in degree, is that of the religious teacher or of one eminent in any walk of life over those who have confidence in him. But it is a question whether this influence is not in some cases increased rather than lessened after the close of one's earthly life. None are so perfect but that there are blemishes or limitations of character that more or less counteract its power for good.

But these are soon forgotten, or made by the alchemy of love to blend harmoniously with the virtues which were the predominant and controlling elements of the character whose memory we cherish. That which was excellent and worthy of admiration shines forth unobscured and continues to shine as long as memory discharges its office.

II. The same is true of that mysterious power which we call personal influence.

The personality of any one does not consist in his bodily presence. It is made up of intellect, and moral, and social traits, and will, and a something intangible and indescribable, by which every one is distinguished from every other one, however much he may resemble another in all de-

scribable traits of character. And the influence of each one has a quality all its own which continues as long as any knowledge of him is preserved.

The personal influence of the two apostles John and Peter, though exerted in the same general direction in behalf of Christianity, has each its marked features, as decided and as active now as when they walked among men. Their works follow them, not only in the broad sphere of action in which they both helped to build up the kingdom of God, but as well in the limited sphere of their individual personalities. But

III. The works of a Christian follow him by means of the forces which he sets in operation. In secular affairs an individual may give shape to the institutions or laws of a nation, that shall remain for generations and ages. At the founding of our national government, Samuel and John Adams, Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Washington shaped our constitution and gave us maxims in politics that make the nation what it is to-day. The life of each one of us is affected by what these men said and did.

More emphatically and more imperishably does one live through the religious institutions which he founds or helps to found.

The planting of a Christian College, or Theological Seminary, or a Christian Church, is not a work for a day or a generation, but for many generations. Even if it ceases to exist in a century or in ten centuries, it sets in motion influences that will only end with time itself. Mary Lyon lives to-day in the lives of thousands of educated Christian women, each one of whom will transmit more or less of spiritual power to others, and they to others still, who shall come after them.

And so of every one who has put his life or his possessions into an institution of Christian learning.

There is no so sure a patent of earthly immortality as this. The labor of an individual working alone may per-

ish, or cease to have any appreciable influence among men, but a Christian school, where young minds are stored with knowledge and young hearts fired with hallowed zeal, is a perennial fountain whence flow living streams to make glad the City of our God.

We come to-day to pay a tribute to the memory of one whose works in all these forms follow him.

William Hyde was of the seventh generation from William Hyde who came with the Rev. Thomas Hooker from England in 1633, sojourned at Newtown for a short time, and removed with him to Hartford in 1636. The lot assigned to him, as appears by the plot in the history of the first church of Hartford, was near what is now Capitol Avenue, not far from the South church. He afterwards removed to Saybrook where he was in 1652. In 1660 he was one of the original settlers of Norwich, where he was frequently selectman and the first magistrate of that town.

2. Samuel Hyde, the only son of William Hyde was born in Hartford in 1637 and went with his father to Norwich in 1660.

3. His son Thomas was born at Norwich in 1672.

4. His son Jacob was born at Norwich in 1703.

5. His son Joseph was born at Norwich in 1736.

6. His son Alvan was born at Norwich in 1768.

He was fitted for College by Rev. Samuel Nott, elder brother of Eliphalet Nott, afterwards President of Union College, who was his fellow student: and was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1788, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1812. He studied Theology with Dr. Charles Backus, of Somers, Ct. and with Dr. Stephen West, of Stockbridge, was licensed by the Tolland Co. Association and was pastor of the Church in Lee, Mass. from 1792 to his death Dec. 4, 1833. His salary at settlement was \$200 which was increased as his family increased until it was \$600, at the time of his death. He had nine sons and two daughters. He educated four

sons at Williams College, of which he was a trustee from 1802 and Vice-President from 1812 to his death.

7. William Hyde, the subject of this sketch, was born at Lee, Mass., Aug. 16, 1806, the fifth son and the seventh child of the Rev. Alvan Hyde, D. D. and Mrs. Lucy (Fessenden) Hyde, of Sandwich, Mass. who were married at Lee, April 25, 1793. He was fitted for College mostly by his father, and graduated at Williams College in 1826. It was during his college course that he hopefully became a follower of Christ, but he did not unite with the church till Nov. 1831, when he was received into the first church in Springfield, Samuel Osgood, D.D. pastor; at the same time with Simeon H. Calhoun, afterwards a missionary in Syria. He taught school one year after leaving College, at Catskill, N. Y., where he was under the ministry of Rev. David Porter, D. D. who died at 90 years of age and was called by his pastor in his funeral sermon "the Patriarch David." He then read law one year with Hon. William Porter, of Lee, and was two years with Hon. George Bliss, of Springfield, where he began practice Nov. 1830, and had an office there until 1834, and where he was editor of the Springfield Gazette two years and active in Sunday School and Temperance work, until he was called to be cashier of the Bank at Ware.

Parsons Cooke, a college friend, was the pastor of the church at Ware, and other friends there made the call attractive to him, and though his attachments in Springfield were strong, the practice of law had become distasteful to him, as it developed the bad side of men and brought him in contact with their evil passions and their selfish propensities. He embraced the first opportunity to take a more congenial calling, and was cashier of the Bank thirty years, and President from 1865, and President of the Savings Bank from 1850.

He became a member of the East Congregational church in Ware in 1835, was chosen Deacon in 1837 and

served in that office until 1884, when he resigned.

He was five years superintendent of the Sabbath school, and a teacher in it till within the last year of his life, and was nominally the teacher of his class as long as he lived.

Many received the aid of his wise instructions. I have heard him regret that he had not kept a list of all his scholars. There must have been many hundreds of them, and probably all of them retain pleasant memories of him as their Sunday School teacher.

He was treasurer of the various benevolences of the church from 1845 and saw its gifts increased many fold. He served as Overseer of the Charity Fund in Amherst College fifteen years, trustee of Williston Seminary seventeen years, of Williams College eighteen years, of Andover Theological Seminary six years, all of which he resigned, as he advanced in years, and felt compelled to decline several other similar positions. Mr. Hyde was elected a Corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions in 1862, and, with few exceptions, has been at its annual meetings. He was present at the last meeting in Springfield, though in great weakness, but anxious to contribute to the success of what he believed to be the right.

As he was born on a Saturday afternoon Aug. 16, 1806, the same month and it may be the same day of the prayer meeting at the Haystack in Williamstown which was of a Saturday, he may be said to have been born with the Foreign Missionary cause, in which from a child he has been interested. His father began, with his small salary and eleven children, with the monthly Concert when first established, and gave each child a small coin to place in the contribution box for Foreign Missions.

All were trained to give "as the Lord prospered them." The habit grew with their growth and strengthened with their strength.

I well remember his saying when he was elected a Corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, that he considered that a greater honor than it would be to be Governor of the state.

Mr. Hyde was married July 4, 1836 to Miss Harriet N. Sage, of Blandford, who with two children and four grand-children survives him. With their children and grand-children and the two surviving witnesses of their marriage, they had a quiet and happy observance of the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, at the old mountain home in Blandford, two years ago this summer.

Although Mr. Hyde never enjoyed robust health, he was rarely wholly laid aside by illness, and outlived all his ten brothers and sisters by several years, sinking to his rest at the age of eighty-two without pain, by a gradual wearing away of vital power.

He retained full possession of his mental powers to the last, and while the "outward man perished the inward man was renewed day by day."

His last days were so peaceful and characterized by such unshaken faith and trust, that when he was released from earth, the thought most fitting the occasion was "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

It is difficult, rather impossible in words, to draw a true picture of such a life; but it is evident to all familiar with it that it does not end when its earthly career is closed.

When one gives such evidence of dying in the Lord, his works follow him, in this case certainly in all those ways which were enumerated at the beginning of this discourse.

I. The example of Mr. Hyde was such as to leave a powerful and abiding impression upon those who were familiar with it. It is not claimed that this was perfect. He would have been the last one to claim it. There has been but one perfect life on earth, but he might have used the

language of the apostle, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Living always in sight of the world and coming in daily contact with men of every shade of character, no suspicion of dishonesty or of low and unworthy methods of business ever was fixed upon him. If those who had known him through life, had at last been disappointed by finding in him any want of integrity, it would well nigh have destroyed their confidence not only in humanity, but even in the very distinction of right and wrong. Duty was his guide in his daily life in things little as well as great. When he was convinced, what it was right for him to do, the question was settled as to what he would do, and it was done without fear or favor.

The same was true in what may be called his religious duties, though it would be difficult to draw any line between his religious and his secular acts. He was not a man of varying moods, or if he experienced these, it was not shown in the discharge of his Christian duties. He was accustomed to maintain that religion should be a matter of principle rather than of feeling, and though the latter was not wanting, the former was by far the most conspicuous in his religious life. Whether he should be present at Sabbath worship, or the Sabbath school or the prayer-meeting, or whether he should engage in this or that service for the Master did not depend upon his inclination at the time, but upon what he had concluded to be his duty. The result was that any one who knew what in general his convictions were, always knew where to find him, and could depend upon his being where, and doing what, was needed.

This example has impressed itself, I am convinced, upon the young to an extent greater than they are aware. I have no doubt that many such, in after life, will look back and ask themselves how this exemplary Christian would have acted in the circumstances in which they are placed,

and will be influenced, it may be unconsciously, by the remembrance of him.

II. The same is true of his personal influence. Mr. Hyde was a natural leader of men, and this not, as one who did not know him well might think, because he wished to have his own way, but because he was quick to see the thing that ought to be done, and sooner or later, others came to see that it was the fittest, perhaps the only thing to be done. He was the more readily followed because it was seen that he was not selfish or self-seeking.

He was not ambitious of place or position, but was content to exert his influence in what seemed to him the right direction, and let the honor take care of itself. Above all, in his intercourse with men was he free from cherishing malice or ill will. While he was open and sometimes abrupt, perhaps needlessly so, in telling one his faults, in all my thirty years of intimate acquaintance with him I cannot remember that he ever spoke unkindly of any one in his absence. I have sometimes wondered at his self-restraint in cases in which I knew he felt he had been wronged, and have seen him ready to help those who he believed had just been seeking to do him injury.

He was charitable in his judgments of his fellow men, and easily overlooked the faults of any one in whose general character he had confidence. Although no one in this congregation was better capable of judging of the merits of a sermon, he was not a critical hearer, and his presence and bearing in the House of God were an inspiration to any one who was preaching Gospel truth.

The influence of such a man, even when silent and unnoticed, reaches far beyond his life here. It continues to be felt after he is gone, and is transmitted by those who knew him personally to generations that follow. But the influence of Mr. Hyde will be felt most widely in the future by means of his far-reaching benevolence. He was

a benevolent man, not giving simply because he felt it his duty to give, but enjoying it as a privilege.

I have often sat by him as he opened his morning mail and have been shown the appeals to his charity which almost every day brought him. He was not annoyed by their frequency or urgency, saying that he was glad to have people free to ask him for help, though reserving his perfect freedom as to the response which he would make. That discretion was wisely exercised and his gifts were confined within no narrow limits. He did not overlook the wants of his own town, as its public Library, mainly his gift, testifies. His private charities though unostentatious were numerous, and many in humble life are to-day feeling that they have lost a friend. But his charity, beginning at home, by no means stopped there. There is scarcely a state from the Atlantic to the Pacific, especially in the Northern part of the Union, in which there is not a church or a College or some religious institution rejoicing to-day in his wise and liberal gifts. Nor were these confined to his own country, but in the islands of the sea, and on distant heathen lands, are those imperishable monuments to his faithful stewardship.

With such an example before us, it is not hard to believe in the perpetuity of religious influences and the final triumph of the Gospel.

If when good men die we were compelled to believe that their work was ended, it would seem that with each generation, the work already done was all to be gone over again, and so the conflict with evil to be an endless one. But we are obliged to adopt no such disheartening theory as this. The life which we are reviewing is but one of numberless proofs that "the good which men do lives after them." The world is better for every true Christian life, and better not only for the time, but for all coming time.

Such a life is not only the fruit of good influences which have preceded and caused it, but it in turn becomes a part

of that "incorruptible seed" which is to continue bearing fruit till earth's final harvests are all gathered.

If we have said but little of Mr. Hyde's personal religious experiences, this may be accounted for in part by the fact that he was accustomed to say but little of them himself. He had a very humble opinion of his own piety. After he thought he had become a follower of Christ, it was some years before he felt warranted in making a public profession of religion.

He rarely alluded to his own experiences either in public or in private, but left them to be inferred from his acts. A few months ago when he had referred to his own inability to take any part in the work of the church, and was reminded that he might dwell with satisfaction upon what he had been able to do in the past, he replied in substance that while grateful for the opportunities which he had enjoyed of doing something for his Master, he had done nothing which he cared to speak of. His religious experiences were a quiet but deep and steady stream. It was a stream which beautified the scenes of home and social life and which flowing far "made glad the city of our God," and it maintained its peaceful flow to the end. Not long before his death he recited his favorite hymn,

"My faith looks up to Thee,"

emphasizing and repeating the closing line—"Ransomed soul."

He said repeatedly, "I can only trust," and so trusting and peaceful he fell "asleep in Jesus."

It was this to which he looked forward with longing. Saying upon Sabbath morning the last day of his life, "Sweet day of rest, I hope it will be a day of rest for me." And it was.

It is difficult to estimate the loss which a community sustain when such a life is ended. It is better to dwell upon the good which has flowed from it. The record of it is

one to be dwelt upon with gratitude not only by the bereaved family and personal friends, but by all those among whom it has been passed. And that which is of chief value in this life, especially to the young, is the lesson which it teaches, that all which is most noble and praiseworthy in it was the outgrowth of deep religious principle and of a constant abiding in Christ. By such means alone can the blessedness of the text be secured. It can only be pronounced over those who "die in the Lord," and the closing portion of it belongs in its highest and fullest sense to those who have *lived* in him. For this no human powers will suffice.

No learning however profound, no genius however exalted, no natural affections however pure, not any or all of these, even though reinforced by the most indomitable will, can secure eternal blessedness for their possessor.

And to the works wrought by such means there will be an end. It is sad to think how many such works must perish. As we contemplate some products of profound genius in art, or letters, or statesmanship, moved with enthusiastic admiration we pronounce it immortal. But no! Even though it endures to the end of time, it too with time must come to an end.

They alone who die in the Lord are thenceforth blessed, their works alone shall live forever.

WILLIAM HYDE,

DIED JUNE 24TH, AND WAS BURIED JUNE 27TH, 1888.

The funeral services were held at his residence on Maple Street, at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and were very largely attended by his fellow citizens, the number of business men being particularly noticeable. As a mark of respect for one who has been so prominently identified with the town, all the stores were closed during the hours of the funeral.

Among those present were Ex-Governor Knight and Professor A. L. Perry, who came as representatives of the trustees of Williams College, of which body Mr. Hyde was an honored member for eighteen years. There were many present also who had received many substantial tokens of his generosity and christian thoughtfulness. The French Protestant Church, toward which Mr. Hyde subscribed liberally, was represented by its pastor, Rev. T. A. Dorion, and A. A. Auger, M. D., one of its deacons.

The services at the house were marked by simplicity and appropriateness. Mr. Charles A. Stevens had charge of the arrangements, and was assisted by Mr. Charles D. Gilbert and Mr. J. H. G. Gilbert. Rev. A. T. Perry opened the service with a sentence or two of scripture, and then offered a brief invocation. He read by request the hymn, "My faith looks up to thee," which was a favorite one of Mr. Hyde's, and then some selected passages. Rev. Dr. A. E. P. Perkins, now of Worcester, for many years

pastor of the East Church in Ware, followed by reading the hymn, "Asleep in Jesus," and then making some remarks. He said that it was not necessary to speak at length concerning the life of Mr. Hyde, as a more fitting occasion would occur later, but coming himself as a mourner, he referred to some of the characteristics of the remarkable life just closed. It was a life the very embodiment of a sense of duty, not in the stern and harsh aspect so often given it, but in the aspect of joyfulness which always results from duty well done. While not wanting in warm affection and strong feeling, it was a life inspired by principle rather than feeling, and resting on the firm ground of duty. Mr. Hyde was rare in counsel and wise in judgment, and much sought after as an adviser. He might have occupied more prominent places, but never sought publicity, although in church and in business he took whatever position seemed to lie in the path of duty. His was a complete life and fully rounded. There is little that we can think of to add to it, and his name is blessed by many all over this land, and on the isles of the sea, for what he, in his generosity and wisdom, had done. At the close of these remarks, the song, "There is rest for the weary," was sung, and Dr. Perkins offered prayer.

The exercises at the grave in Aspen Grove Cemetery were brief. As the casket, covered with flowers and the symbolic sheaf of grain, was lowered into the grave, Rev. A. T. Perry repeated the committal service, and Rev. Dr. Perkins pronounced the benediction. The bearers were the deacons of the East Congregational Church, which Mr. Hyde had served in that capacity for forty-seven years.

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

HON. WILLIAM HYDE.

“The Board of Trustees of Williams College, having heard of the recent death of the Hon. William Hyde, a graduate of this college in 1826, and for eighteen years a member of this Board, hereby records its deep and tender sense of the dignity and moral excellence of the personal character of Mr. Hyde, and the great value of the services which he has rendered to this college during many trying years in its past history.

“In addition to the rare fidelity of his personal services, and the enthusiasm of his affection for his Alma Mater, Mr. Hyde was a generous contributor to its funds at a time when its friends were few and its needs were great, and thus well deserves to be numbered among those benefactors who have laid the foundations upon which the college is now so well established.

“Owing to his advance in years which, in his judgement, unfitted him for the active discharge of the duties of a trustee, Mr. Hyde retired from the Board in the year 1877. He entered into rest on the 24th of June, 1888.”

From the Records of the President and Trustees of Williams College.

A true copy attest.

JAMES WHITE,
Secretary.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.,
July 19, 1888.

The foregoing resolutions were accompanied by an exceedingly kind and sympathetic letter from Pres. Carter, a part of which may with propriety be inserted here.

“ We were very much impressed by the fact that your honored husband should be borne to his rest on the day of our annual commencement. He had been so warmly attached and devoted to the college, that it was fitting that his life should end on the closing day of our year, and his burial be on the commencement day.

“ I have felt all summer that his end was nigh, and yet have hoped to see him again.

“ By a rising vote of all present at the Alumni dinner, I was commissioned to express to you our sense of the very great services he rendered to the college in the days of its weakness and peril, and our warm sympathy with you under this bereavement.

“ It was no unmeaning vote, and was passed with solemnity and feeling.

“ I have always been glad that he was here two years ago, on the *sixtieth* anniversary of his graduation, and that you stayed with us. It was a happy visit, and the aroma of your husband's life has not yet faded from our atmosphere.

“ Please present my sympathies to all your family, and ask them to keep alive in their hearts the love their father had for the struggling college, and for a dying world.

“ Had the funeral been at any other time than one of these four days, I should not have failed to be present. But it certainly was fitting, and how beautiful a day !”

Mr Hyde's fondness for his Alma Mater is well known. Many are the young persons who have been assisted by him in obtaining an education, and who have gone forth to be useful in the world, and to honor the institutions they represented. But that he felt a *peculiar* attachment to Williams College was very evident. Part of a letter re-

ceived from one of the recent graduates of that institution, will show how Mr. Hyde's kindness was appreciated by one to whom he was personally an entire stranger.

“It has been my purpose at the end of my course at Williams College this year, to write to Mr. Hyde, and express to him my personal gratitude, as well as that which every Williams man must feel, toward one who has contributed so much to the usefulness and high position of our dear college.

“In the midst of my commencement exercises I heard, I need not say with how great sorrow and regret, of the end of his long life of honor and usefulness. May I express to you, not only my deep sympathy, but also my true appreciation of his kindly interest in me, and the great advantages which, through his generosity, I have been permitted to enjoy. Without his aid a college education would have been impossible. With it I have gained not only this, and the pleasure of four happy and profitable years, but the possibility of going on in the following of my chosen profession, the ministry.”

The letters of love and sympathy that have been received by members of the bereaved family, from all over this country and across the seas are numerous. *All* of these are very precious, and fully appreciated, and would most gratefully be acknowledged.

Most of these kind and loving words, however, are too tender and personal in their nature to admit of publication, even in this limited form.

Extracts from only a few of these are here given, but they will serve to show, in some measure, the estimation in which our sainted friend was held by those who knew him best.

“I treasure up my recollections of Mr. Hyde, and a few letters from him, as among my precious things. The

world has few enough such men: and I shall never look upon his like again. From the first moment of my acquaintance with him, I was drawn to him, not only by strong sympathy of views and aims, but by the fine spirit that he possessed.

“ So firm for truth and right, and yet so gentle and gracious: so clear-headed on all questions of truth, wise policy, and duty, and so thoroughly *christian* in everything, I deem him, on all accounts, the wisest counsellor I ever knew.

“ No one could ever have any doubts of him. He gave such proof of integrity and loyalty to God, and to his Word, that his example must have been priceless.

“ The churches at large, the American Board, the whole denomination, that so trusted and loved him, mourn with you.

“ His benevolent gifts were great and good: but, oh! how vastly better was the *man* than his *best* gifts. Very few men do I ever expect to follow to the grave, who have stood so high in my esteem.”

“ I need not assure you that you have been very particularly remembered during the past week by us, where you most love to be remembered, at the throne of grace. The Blessed Lord of all consolation we know is with you, more nearly, we doubt not, than He has ever been before, during all your long and varied experience of His grace.

“ How much we loved and honored your dear husband, we need not undertake to tell. He has always seemed to us one of the rarest of noble men; and so will his memory be cherished to the end of earth. And then we anticipate seeing him, and the glorious company with which he is now associated, in their perfected blessedness.

“ Somehow it seems as if he must feel quite at home with those who have already greeted him in Heaven.”

“The Lord spared our dear friend to a good old age, for the good of the world; and all who loved him are to be congratulated that they had him so long. And yet his loss is so much the greater for this very reason, that the long experience of his goodness made men love him so much the more.

“My own acquaintance with him was brief, but one quickly gets to know and love a good man. May the ‘lendings to the Lord,’ which he has so often made, be returned to you abundantly by Him, to comfort your heart.”

“The strong staff upon which you have leaned, my friend, for the greater part of your life, has been laid aside. To few have been given blessings so great in their character and continuance, as those which have marked your life. Now, after a long life of honor and enjoyment, possessing the respect and esteem of all, his sun has set full-orbed, its departing rays leaving behind sweet memories for his friends to cherish to the end of their lives.”

“Yesterday’s Tribune announces that my highly esteemed and long-tried friend has joined the glorious company of sainted kindred and friends above.

“It is more than sixty years since I first knew Mr. Hyde, and sat at his feet as my classical teacher. May I be permitted here to say,—that among all the teachers under whose instructions I have sat for seventy years and more, he has been my special favorite, and my steadfast friend he surely was from 1826 till his departure. I consider him as near perfection as any man I ever knew. May the Lord speedily raise up hundreds, who shall live a life of more than fourscore without a stain.”

“Mr. Hyde was my ideal of a man and a christian, and did more to raise the standard of true manhood in a town

or church, than any one I ever knew. He so exemplified all the christian virtues as to make them attractive.

“ So truly kind and sympathetic was he, that one going to him in any trouble or perplexity, was sure to find a wise counsellor. Many a one is under great obligation for help received ; and the memory of his loving words and blessed deeds will live forever.

“ We are thankful that he was spared so long, and yet he was so young in feeling, that we mourn as for one taken in early life.”

“ Like ‘ a shock of corn’ fully ripe, he has been gathered into the garner, and will reap the reward of a long and useful life. While we mourn the loss we cannot but feel that his life-work was well done, and that his memory will be held in universal esteem and reverence.”

“ Your sorrow, my dear friend, will be mingled with joy that must bring comfort to your heart even now. Joy that you have had such a father, a noble, grand, and true man : joy that his useful life has been so prolonged, that so many all over this land knew him to love him, that so many in other lands who knew him not, have been blessed by his benefactions : and, best of all, the assurance that having ceased from earthly labor, he has entered into the ‘ joy of his Lord.’ ”

“ I feel personally bereaved, for you know what your father has been to me. A noble, christian man he was, and nobly did he fulfil his mission on earth, in its relation to the church and the world.”

“ There is no man now living, outside of my own family, whose friendship I value, as I did your father’s. Friends, or even those who can be supposed to take a friendly in-

terest in us, are dropping away rapidly ; and I find myself clinging more closely to those who remain."

" I think of him as intensely alive, amid the glories and services of heaven. Memory there remains, and is intensified. Interest and affection are increased. Inhabitants there speak together of friends on earth, and at least hear of earthly matters through the angels ! He waits for you to join him."

" I am sorely bereaved. Your dear husband has always filled a large place in my heart. From my childhood he has been my ideal of a christian gentleman. His beautiful christian character has been an inspiration to me, and to a multitude who loved him. Earth is poorer indeed to me, and, oh ! how much poorer must it be to you !

" But heaven has now *new* attractions. In thought I have followed him to the blessed home for which he had been longing. No more weariness, no weakness, no more infirmity for him, but service without weariness. He has left the cross for the crown. What multitudes have greeted him upon the other side, who have been blessed by his prayers and benefactions in this and other lands ! For him we are *glad*, no, are *thankful*, but still the desolation remains."

" I have just heard of your great loss, and hasten to assure you of my heartfelt sympathy. My departed friend and classmate has left behind him a bright record of unsullied character, noble life, and godly example. In all his business relations, in the important positions in the church and community, which he has held for so many years, he has been faithful to every trust.

" I seldom, if ever, knew a man who possessed so kind and generous a heart. A friend to every good cause, he bestowed largely of his means on some, and at the same time never overlooked the necessities of the poor and lone-

ly. I owe to him many kind favors, and I believe to him it was 'more blessed to give than to receive.' "

" It was with surprise and grief that I read the obituary notice of my early friend, your noble husband. He was but a little younger than myself. I first became acquainted with him at his father's house in Lee. Entering Williams College one year before him, we enjoyed three years of college life together. Since that time I have seldom met him. I think the last time was at the meeting of the Board, at Providence. He was always a dear friend to me, and I shall cherish the memory of his goodness. He was the last to go of his father's family, and I alone remain of mine. May God give us grace to be faithful, as he was, and in the end join him in that heavenly land."

" As I entered the Alumni meeting at Williams, I heard of the death of Mr. Hyde. I am personally greatly bereaved by his departure.

" I am truly thankful that he was permitted to live so long, and so largely to aid the cause of christian beneficence, by his generous benefactions. May his mantle fall on those he has left behind."

" Oh! what a shock that news has given me. The last of my old and tried and true friends has gone! One of the strong pillars, against which I leaned, has fallen. I had hoped to see him once more. 'Cease ye from man, and lean only upon God,' I am continually repeating to myself."

" Need I tell you of my deep sympathy? I well know how little words of sympathy can help us in the midst of such affliction, although we are grateful for them, but there is no help save from the Father who gives and takes, measuring only from his own wisdom and divine purpose.

“ You and I can understand, *must* understand, that by this measure all is right. Three years this day my beloved left me, and I know what sorrow and mourning mean, and what it means to cheerfully submit to the Father’s will, and patiently wait for the re-union which is not far away. So may it be with you, and may sweet memories of the past, and hope and faith in the future, bless your whole life. “He doeth all things well.”

“ If it were possible for me to get away, I should most certainly show my respect for your honored father, and my sympathy for you all, by my personal presence at the funeral, but business holds me here.

“ My acquaintance with your father, while somewhat limited, was a very pleasant one ; and it was a regret to us all not to see him last summer, as we had hoped to do.

“ Your father has in my mind been associated with my own father, in his declining days. I have many times thought of him in his weakness, and with it would come the memory of those days when I saw the gradual failure of my father, approaching the same result as your telegram brings.

“ The well-rounded life of the man, so full of service for the master, is a treasure in itself ; and is, and will be a constant joy to his friends. This is the legacy your father has left to his family, the church, and the community, and his memory will be treasured in the hearts of all who knew him.

“ I feel that I can sympathize with you fully, for I have passed through the same experience, and I shall never forget the feeling that came over me when I realized that my father was dead. As it was with *my* father, so it is with *yours*,—the well-rounded christian life,—the work given him to do, all done, and *well* done,—waiting simply for the Master’s call. And yet it was *my father* who was called, and I have not forgotten how the feeling of loss forced it-

self upon me, that he to whom I had for so many years looked up, was gone.

“And so I offer you my sympathy, not in words merely, but in the experience which in so many ways is yours at this time.

“While between us there is, as yet, no personal acquaintance, I hope in the near future we may be brought together; and I have written to you, feeling that in knowing your father, I also knew you, and have expressed myself as I would not to a stranger.”

“Although my heart is full of sympathy for you, I hesitate to write, lest it seem like intrusion. But though my personal acquaintance with yourself is so very slight, I feel that I knew your husband well, and therefore cannot feel like a stranger to you.

“He has always expressed a kind interest in my life-work, and it was a great shock to me to come accidentally upon the tidings that he had passed from earth, for I had hoped to meet him again, and receive additional counsel and advice.

“I know, by sad experience, something of what the loss is to you. ‘The days go on, go on,’ but the heart-loneliness never diminishes. May the Comforter be ever near you.”

By many nephews and nieces, and other kindred more remote, Mr. Hyde seems to have been looked up to with filial affection and reverence. Extracts from only a few of the numerous loving letters that have been received from these dear friends, can here be given. One, far away, writes,—

“I can no longer think of the Ware home as cheered and brightened by Uncle William’s presence and kindly

talk. I never saw him when he was not cheerful, and considerately kind. But I shall ever remember it as it was, and as it still remains, a pleasant home, though it miss so sadly one who made it full of peace and joy.

“Henceforth I too walk the earth with a sense of loneliness, unfelt before. The generations before me have nearly all passed out of sight. Those to whom I once looked up as guides and defenders are no more.

“I think of you in that lovely but now lonely home, and wish I could give you the arm to support, and the hand to provide, that you will now so often miss; but as surely as there is a God of love and mercy, so surely may His people safely trust Him, as each day brings its own trials. ‘Just for to-day,’ and so the strength comes, and the grace promised, till the end.”

“We are never ready to lose such men as Uncle William from the world. They are *rare* in these days, and the world seems poor without them. But you have as a legacy the memory of a beautiful life and rare companionship; and you have been spared the sorrow of witnessing the decay of mental power.

“May the example of such a life stimulate the young to a higher standard in all holy living. Blessed would it be if every mourner had the sweet consolations that are yours in this season of sorrow.”

“I was never in my Uncle’s company as much as most of my brothers and sisters, still it was always an inspiration to a nobler and better, and manlier life, for me to meet him. As a christian, and as a business man, I considered him a model, and as a *christian business man*, he was a rare example.”

“I have no doubt the end of Uncle W.’s life was peaceful, as his life has been. We can truly say the world is

better for his having lived in it. I am thankful he was spared to us so long ; and I know that the memories of his kind and loving nature will influence me in the future, as they have in the past. He has left to all his kindred the priceless legacy of an honorable and holy life."

"What comfort and consolation in the thought that our dear Uncle W. was spared to such a ripe old age, to finish his life work ; and that he is now in the heavenly home, free from all earthly cares. For him it was a happy release, and now there is another re-united family above, to be separated never again."

"We were somewhat prepared for the sad news, by letters previously received ; yet, we hoped that a life so dear and precious would be spared a little longer.

"I am so thankful we were permitted to make that little visit at Ware last fall. It is one of the 'bright spots' of our eastern trip, to which we look back with peculiar pleasure. We feel that in your loss, *we* have lost a brother beloved. May we who remain to finish up the work of life allotted to us, so live, that when called away we may have our work 'well done', as his was who has passed over the river before us."

"He who was the light of your dwelling has left you, yet his life was so saintly, and his end so peaceful, that your heart will be comforted even amid the flowing tears.

"How gladly would we have been with you, if it had been possible. I feel as if I could almost have gone on *foot* the whole distance, to have had the privilege of a last message from one we so much honored and revered. Precious is the memory of such a friend ; and how fitting those words, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord!'"

“ You were permitted to carry the loved one, as it were, down to the river’s brink, and there Jesus met him, and bore him safely home, ‘ a ransomed soul.’ ”

“ My heart has been much with you, all these sad days. All the world goes on as before, but how out of place we feel in it ! It seems as if the sun must have gone out, because we shiver in the cold and darkness. But as surely as spring follows winter, the sunshine will come back into our lives.

“ If I had not been through the deep darkness, and been delivered from it step by step, I could not write this to you.

“ I know the utter desolation, and I know too that God’s power and grace is equal to remove it. May the dear Saviour fill your heart with His peace. so that you can rejoice even in this time of sorrow.”

“ The dear one we mourn lived a long and noble life. He was truly a faithful servant, a steward of God’s bounty : and has heard already the ‘ Well done, good and faithful servant,’ from the Master’s lips. The influence of such a life cannot be lost : his ‘ works will follow him.’ ”

“ He was in every sense a living, practical christian. All who knew him well can testify that he lived not for himself alone.

“ The number and variety of his benefactions will never be known to the world, but many in this and other lands will treasure the recollection of his kindness. It was a pleasure to him to feel that he was a steward of the Lord.

“ Always cheerful and hopeful, well known as a friend to every good cause, agents of colleges and seminaries of

learning, seekers for aid for feeble churches, and kindred objects, found their way to him.

“The loss to us, to the church, and to the world, cannot be told.”

“Servant of God, well done!

Rest from thy loved employ:

The battle fought, the victory won.

Enter thy Master's joy.

“Soldier of Christ, well done!

Blessed be thy new employ;

And while eternal ages run.

Rest in thy Saviour's joy.”

“FRIEND AFTER FRIEND DEPARTS.”

We welcome again the bright morning light,
Which follows so surely the shades of the night;
And we stand in its presence with reverent eye,
To worship our God who renews the supply.

Is the friend who has gone, again never to see
This light which so cheers and animates me?
Are darkness and night the abode of the soul
Which has run in its race, and come to its goal?

No: night has departed, and day has begun,
In a light that is brighter than light of the sun;
And joy is the portion of the friend that is gone,
To the home that is radiant with beauty and song.

It is fitting and blessed in our life here below,
To find sorrow and joy in the tears that will flow;
But *that* life hath no tears, and the joy hath no end.
Which encircles the soul of our glorified friend.

June 28, 1888.

L. S. D.

